

Applicant : Meng-Chang Chen
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REMARKS

The applicant thanks the examiner for the telephone interview of February 23, 2006, in which the claims and the prior art references were discussed.

The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

4. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11-14, 17, 18, 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Godoy et al ("Godoy", "PersonalSearcher: An Intelligent Agent for Searching Web Pages") in view of Chen et al ("Chen", "WebMate: A Personal Agent for Browsing and Searching")

As per independent claim 1, Godoy discloses a system for managing a personal view for a user comprising: a personal view constructor, which builds the personal view as a hierarchy of categories based on the topic page extracted by the proxy (Page 3 lines 17-21); and a personal view maintainer, which adjusts the hierarchy according to an energy value of each of the categories (Page 5 lines 22-31). However, Godoy does not explicitly disclose a proxy. Chen teaches a proxy, which tracks web pages that have been accessed by the user and extracts a topic page from the web pages (Column 3 lines 30-37). Therefore it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the proxy for extracting web topics of Chen with the system of Godoy. Motivation to do so would have been to provide a way to more accurately monitor a user's actions.

Godoy does not disclose or suggest a personal view constructor to build the personal view as a hierarchy of categories based on the topic page extracted by the proxy, "the categories in the personal view being selected from a group of predefined categories," as recited in amended claim 1. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by, e.g., paragraph 32 of the applicant's specification.

The applicant concedes that both the personal view of claim 1 and the personalized hierarchy of Godoy include a hierarchy of categories. However, the categories in the personal view of claim 1 are selected from a group of predefined categories, whereas the categories in Godoy's personalized hierarchy are determined by grouping new cases by similarity.

Godoy describes a method of building a user profile using a case-based reasoning technique. (page 3, last paragraph) A personalized hierarchy is built by grouping new cases by similarity in a case base. A general inductive process automatically builds a classifier for this

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subject or category by observing the characteristics of a set of cases that have been classified under the category. (page 4, lines 33-37) Godoy does not disclose or suggest that the categories in the personalized hierarchy are selected from a group of predefined categories.

What is lacking in Godoy is also not disclosed or suggested in Chen or Devany. Chen discloses a WebMate system that uses a vector space to represent a user profile, the vectors representing documents, and similar documents having similar vectors. (page 133, right column, lines 2-13) Devany discloses a learning system that can add and remove attributes from an existing concept hierarchy and restructuring the hierarchy. Neither Chen nor Devany discloses or suggests building a personal view as a hierarchy of categories, in which the categories are selected from a group of predefined categories. Thus, claim 1 would not have been made obvious by Godoy and Chen (and/or Devany).

Claim 11 is patentable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

Claims 2-10, 11-19, and 30-35 are patentable for at least the same reasons as the claims on which they depend. Moreover, these claims add additional distinctive features. For example, claim 5 recites "the personal view maintainer splits off a child category from a parent category in the hierarchy if the energy value of the parent category is above a pre-determined threshold." Claim 7 recites "the personal view maintainer periodically reduces the energy value of each of the categories." Claim 8 recites "the personal view maintainer removes a child category from the hierarchy if the energy value of the child category is below a pre-determined threshold." Claim 9 recites "the personal view maintainer merges information of the child category with information of the child category's parent in the hierarchy." Claim 30 recites "the energy value of a category represents a user's degree of interest in the category." Claim 31 recites "the energy value of a category is increased when a user accesses web pages belonging to that category." Claim 32 recites "when the user accesses new web pages belonging to a category, the energy value of the category is increased based on cosine similarities between a category vector associated with the category and the new web pages, the category vector defining a topic of interest associated with the category." Godoy, Chen, and Devany do not disclose or suggest at least these features.

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Cancelled claims have been cancelled without prejudice. The applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in the future.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner. Any circumstance in which the applicant has made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims. Any circumstance in which the applicant has amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Please apply \$175 for the excess claims fee, \$60 for the Petition for Extension of Time fee, and any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 08919-069001.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rex I. Huang
Rex I. Huang
Reg. No. 57,661

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

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